

The Observations of John Larkin - January 1997

Bloomed from mid-November to heavy frosts of Dec. 19, 20, 21, 1996

With temperatures of 23, 17 & 26 degrees

* () indicates number of months in bloom

Acer drummondii, **Swamp Red Maple** - Not in bloom now, but are showing their bright red samara (seed with two wings that spin and drift when they fall).

Bidens aristosa, **Sticktight** - Called Sticktight because of four little projections on the end of each seed that sticks to animals or people's clothing. 1 ½ inch yellow, daisy like flowers. Will grow in wet locations.

B. pilosa, **Shepherd's Needle** - More of a spreading plant than above with one inch single flowers. Have white petals and yellow discs (centers). Will grow in drier locations.

Gelsemium sempervirens, **Carolina, Jessamine** - Saw a few blooms along roads, but saw thousands of them in pots with small trellises, at Windmill Nursery, all were in bloom.

Houstonia patens, **Bluets** - Saw my first one on 1-12-97. This cute little plant will prosper in your lawn grass. It bears ¼" lavender/blue flowers about 2-3" tall, and this tiny plant is a perennial. Last year we had thousands in our lawn.

Ilex decidua, **Deciduous Holly** - The only holly I'm familiar with that loses its leaves in winter, but the red berries still hold on & it will thrive in wet situations.

I. opaca, **American Holly** - This is an evergreen tree, which is being used widely as an ornamental landscape plant. After coming across thousands of small plants without berries (male), I wondered where they came from. Just couldn't find any with red berries (female). Finally while exploring an abandoned home with my great-granddaughter, there it was, a beautifully formed 40' American Holly covered with red berries. It was quite a specimen.

I. vomitoria, **Yaupon** - Don't have the symmetrical growth of American Holly, but do have attractive berries. But they are usually a pest. They come up where you don't want them to.

Lantana montevidensis, **Trailing Lantana** (Introduced) - Has finally stopped blooming. It succumbed to the three straight days of heavy frosts. It will come back from the roots.

Lobelia siphilitica, **Big Blue Lobelia** - These plants didn't get to be as tall as the ones growing from last year's roots. They were seedlings. They did manage to ripen some seeds before the frosts.

Lonicera fragrantissima, **Winter Honeysuckle** (Introduced) - Winter blooming white flowered Honeysuckle. It's a shrub. Got this plant from Linda Chance.

Mahonia bealei, **False Holly, Leatherleaf Mahonia** (Introduced) - Evergreen shrub, upright stems, 8' high and 8' spread. Very showy clusters of yellow, fragrant flowers, birds eat the blue-black berries.

Viola primulifolia, **White Violet**; *V. rosacea*, **Lavender/Purple Violet**; - Both were blooming before and after frosts.

Since most trees have lost their leaves, it's easier to see flower buds on the following:

Cornus florida, **White Flowering Dogwood**

Liriodendron tulipifera, **Tulip tree**

Sassafras albidum

My evergreen native ferns have pulled through the frosts in good shape, they are:

Dryopteris ludoviciana, La. Wood Fern.

Asplenium platyneuron, Ebony Spleenwort

Polystichum acrostichoides, Christmas Fern

Adiantum pedatum, Northern Maidenhair Fern